

**Amendments to the Claims:** This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A manifold for receiving fluid tubes in a bulk compounder, said manifold comprising:
  - a plurality of inlets, each inlet defining an opening to a respective fluid passageway, each said passageway containing a check-valve;
  - an outlet in fluid communication with said fluid passageways; and
  - an inlet port which is coaxial with said outlet, said coaxial inlet port containing a check-valve.
2. (Original) The manifold of claim 1 further comprising a central chamber in fluid communication with each said fluid passageway for fluidly connecting said fluid passageways to said outlet.
3. (Original) The manifold of claim 1 wherein said outlet comprises an outlet port having a self-sealing membrane adapted to be penetrated by a cannula.
4. (Original) The manifold of claim 1 wherein said outlet comprises an outlet port having a self-sealing membrane adapted to be penetrated by a cannula, and
  - wherein said coaxial inlet port check-valve is adapted to have a cracking pressure greater than the vacuum pressure within said outlet port when the cannula is pulled from said self-sealing membrane.
5. (Original) The manifold of claim 4 wherein all said check-valves are adapted to have a cracking pressure greater than the vacuum pressure within said outlet port when the cannula is pulled from said self-sealing membrane.
6. (Original) The manifold of claim 1 wherein said plurality of inlets are disposed linearly with respect to each other.
7. (Original) A manifold set for receiving fluid tubes in a bulk compounder comprising:
  - a manifold, said manifold comprising:
    - a plurality of inlets, each inlet defining an opening to a respective fluid passageway, each said passageway containing a check-valve;
    - an outlet in fluid communication with said fluid passageways; and
    - an inlet port which is coaxial with said outlet, said coaxial inlet port containing a check-valve; and

a cannula having at least one male blunt tip for insertion into said self-sealing membrane.

8. (Original) The manifold set of claim 7 wherein said cannula has a female port at said male blunt tip end for receiving an additional male tip.

9. (Original) A manifold for receiving fluid tubes in a bulk compounder, said manifold comprising:

a plurality of inlets, each inlet defining an opening to a respective fluid passageway, each said passageway containing a check-valve, said plurality of inlets disposed radially from a center inlet; and

an outlet in fluid communication with all of said fluid passageways and said center inlet; said outlet and said center inlet having the same central axis.

10. (Original) The manifold of claim 9 wherein said center inlet defines a center passageway containing a check-valve.

11. (Original) A tube set for use in bulk compounding, said tube set comprising:

a plurality of pump sections, each said pump section having a distal end;

a plurality of tubes, each said tube of said plurality having a distal end and proximal end, each said proximal end of each tube of said plurality attached to said distal end of a respective pump section, and each said distal end of each tube of said plurality attached to a manifold, said manifold comprising:

a plurality of inlets, each inlet defining an opening to a respective fluid passageway, each said passageway containing a check-valve;

an outlet in fluid communication with said fluid passageways; and

an inlet port which is coaxial with said outlet, said coaxial inlet port containing a check-valve.

12. (Original) The tube set of claim 11 wherein said plurality is six.

13. (Original) The tube set of claim 11 wherein said plurality is nine.

14. (Original) A tube set for use in bulk compounding, said tube set comprising:

a plurality of pump sections, each said pump section having a distal end and a proximal end;

a first plurality of tubes, each said tube of said first plurality attached to said proximal end of a respective pump section;

a second plurality of tubes, each said tube of said second plurality having a distal end and proximal end, each said proximal end of each tube of said second plurality attached to said

distal end of a respective pump section, and said distal end of each tube of said second plurality attached to a manifold, said manifold comprising:

a plurality of inlets, each inlet defining an opening to a respective fluid passageway, each said passageway containing a check-valve;

an outlet in fluid communication with said fluid passageways; and

an inlet port which is coaxial with said outlet, said coaxial inlet port containing a check-valve.

15. (Original) The tube set of claim 14 wherein said first and second plurality are both six.

16. (Original) The tube set of claim 14 wherein said first and second plurality are both nine.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of minimizing error in the filling of a product bag in a bulk compounding system, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a manifold with a minimum common volume to minimize residual holding of any one ingredient solution, the manifold comprising a plurality of inlets, each inlet defining an opening to a respective fluid passageway, each said passageway containing a check-valve; and

passing individual ingredient solutions through the manifold to fill a product bag;

whereby error is reduced because of the minimization of the manifold common volume step.

18. (Cancel)